From: Joe Frank
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 1:41pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I find it amazing that as a user of many computer products, the settlement clearly does not address the core issue of the complaint that most people who would enjoy a lower cost Window's Operating System's without all the new add on's that may or may not be wanted.

A break up of MSFT may be too harsh but a break up of bundling applications with the operating system would lead to a lower OS cost. This would still allow MSFT to develop those "innovative" applications but in a competitive environment that is equal to all given that everyone has access to the necessary API's.

That would allow the consumer to spend their money where they want and still allow MSFT to compete. As is stands now if you want a competing application you need to pay twice. There is consumer protection at it's best.

Also the basis of MSFT's PR campaign has been innovation. However with the descent decree fresh in hand how long did it take them to announce their intention to "unbundle" JAVA from Window's? A truly innovative feature which competes directly with MSFT's view of the future.

I hope the judicial system shows more common sense than the new DOJ did.

Joseph Frank